

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Attorney Docket No.: 3081.174US01

Dirk Muehlhoff et al. Confirmation No.: 8981

Application No.: 10/586,828 Examiner: Unknown

Filed: July 20, 2006 Group Art Unit: 2812

For: SAFETY MECHANISM FOR LASER TREATMENT APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The listing of a reference herein is not an admission that the reference is prior art or that the reference is material to patentability.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Some of the references were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the International Search Report (for PCT/EP2006/000145) is attached for the Examiner's information.

Please note that the following foreign language reference has an English language counterpart, which is presumed to have corresponding subject matter as the foreign language reference and is listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:

U.S. Patent No. 6,027,454 is an English language counterpart to DE 195 14 796 C1.

Reference DE 198 31 674 A1 has an English language abstract but does not have an English language counterpart. This reference is cited in the International Search Report and the concise relevance of this reference is provided by said search report.

Respectfully submitted,



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Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 16-0631.